Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid coding for a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence ~~listed as~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated simian ~~isolated~~ nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence ~~listed as~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleotide sequence at least 96 % identical to SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein which binds nociceptin.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated ~~Simian~~ simian Opioid receptor-like 1(ORL1) gene consisting of the nucleic acid according to claim 2.

5. (Previously amended) A recombinant vector containing the simian ORL1 gene consisting of the nucleic acid according to claim 2.

6. (Currently amended) [[A]] An isolated transformant cell containing the recombinant vector according to claim 5.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of one, or between 2 and 6 amino acids, wherein the protein ~~has ORL1 activity~~ binds nociceptin.

9. (Currently amended) A Compound evaluation method comprising:

a) 1) ~~a step of~~ transferring a simian Opioid receptor-like 1 gene comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotide sequence listed as SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a protein which binds nociceptin, into a cell to prepare [[a]] an isolated transformant cell expressing the ORL1 gene,

2) ~~a step of~~ contacting a test compound with the cell, and

3) ~~a step of~~ detecting specific binding of the test compound to a protein obtained by expression of the gene; or

b) 1) ~~a step of~~ transferring a simian Opioid receptor-like 1 (ORL1) gene comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotide sequence listed as SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a

protein which binds nociceptin, into a cell to prepare [[a]] an isolated transformant cell expressing the ORL1 gene,

2) ~~a step of~~ contacting a test compound with the cell,

3) ~~a step of~~ assaying the activity of an intracellular signal transducer produced by the contact between the cell and the test compound, and

4) ~~a step of~~ comparing the activity with the activity of the intracellular signal transducer without contact with the test compound; or

c) 1) ~~a step of~~ contacting a test compound with [[a]] an isolated simian protein comprising the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO:2 with a substitution, deletion, addition or insertion of one, or between 2 and 6 amino acids, wherein said simian protein binds nociceptin, and

2) ~~a step of~~ detecting a change in activity of the protein caused by the contact between the protein and the test compound.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)